

Joel Szabat
Chief of Staff
Small Business Administration

Joel Szabat serves Administrator Steve Preston as SBA's Chief of Staff, helping to administer an agency with a portfolio of direct and guaranteed business loans, venture capital investments and disaster loans for small businesses worth almost \$80 billion. Joel joined SBA from the Department of Transportation, where he led department-wide initiatives such as the President's Management Agenda, Pandemic Flu planning, Hurricane *Katrina* lessons learned, and interagency research coordination.

In 2005 Joel was on detail to the US Embassy in Baghdad, as the Transportation Counselor to the Ambassador directing the US government's \$544 million transportation reconstruction program in Iraq. Joel joined DOT in 2002, as the Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Transportation Policy, then as DAS for Management and Budget.

From 1993 through 2001, Joel was the Principal Consultant for Transportation for Republicans in the California State Assembly.

From 1990 to 1993 Joel served as a management and budget aide to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Before joining EPA, Joel worked in a management consulting firm in the private sector.

Joel received a B.A. in economics and government from Georgetown University in 1981, and an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1988. Between Georgetown and Harvard, Joel was in the United States Army during the Cold War, commanding tank units patrolling the East-West German border.

Joel is from Sacramento, California. He is the founder of the International Leadership Foundation, a non-profit organization providing public service scholarships for Asian American college students. His wife, Chiling Tong, also serves President Bush, in the Commerce Department.